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## THE IMITATION GAME



*The Imitation Game* is a moving, thought-provoking and inspirational story about Alan Turing, who based on his accomplishments, can be credited with saving lives and changing the world as we know it. His design and development of a machine that could crack the Nazi code during WWII was groundbreaking but even more amazing when you view it in the context of his own personal struggle to be himself. This film is about so much. It shows how hard it is to be different, how important it is to have meaningful work and to have people who accept you as you are. Sadly, the very nation that Turing fought so hard to protect did not acknowledge his worth because of the intolerance that was part of that era.

*The Imitation Game* gives us a truly breathtaking performance from Benedict Cumberbatch who has the socially inept genius down to a science. You could see some of the Sherlock Holmes brilliance in his portrayal of Turing, but with the innocent heart of the undefended. In his suffering, we see everyone who was ever shunned, rejected or bullied. Having a few good people in his corner, Turing was able to reach and to surpass his potential and to contribute something we all take for granted today – computers that can do the work in a fraction of the time. But at what cost to him as a human being?

The sort of persecution that he endured at the hands of misguided and mal-intended law enforcement agents was in itself a form of war crime. I can only say, "Shame on you, not so Great Britain for your most insensitive betrayal of one of your most loyal citizens". Alan Turing's contributions to the war effort were not even acknowledged until 2013. How sad, how tragic that he was felled by the very sort of oppression that WWII was fought to protect against. And yet, that is the ironic fate of a hero. To live and to sometimes die so that others can be free to be the people they are.

*The Imitation Game* offers us a good lesson in acceptance, and perhaps seeing one person's struggle will help inform and educate others to appreciate everyone for the talents they have and the gifts they have to offer. Being different is not and has never been a crime to those who are different. Those who persist and insist on sharing their abilities and service with others are to be celebrated. *The Imitation Game* does that for Alan Turing.



"Sometimes it is the people  
no one imagines anything of  
who do the things  
no one  
can imagine."

- Alan Turing,  
played by Benedict Cumberbatch,  
The Imitation Game.

